

Biographical Narrative: Journal Prompts

1) Can you swim? Who taught you? How old were you when you learned? Tell the story of learning to swim, or if you cannot swim, what it is like not being able to.	2) Pick a noteworthy figure in politics, sports, music, or film about whom you know a great deal and whom you admire. Write a narrative about this person's life and work.	3) What is the worst natural disaster, such as a thunderstorm, blizzard, or earthquake, you have ever experienced? Write a narrative describing the disaster.
4) Research a scientist or inventor whose ideas changed the world. Write a newspaper article telling the person's story.	5) What is a pickup sports game like? Write a short narrative description of a game you have played or watched.	6) Tell the story of a young person or adult who has made a difference by helping others. Characterize the person and describe how he or she has helped other people.
7) Write the life story of a person you admire. In addition to describing the person's accomplishments, analyze the events that influenced the person and include quotations from that person if possible.	8) Tell the story of your name: who gave it to you, why it was given to you, and whether or not you like it.	9) How did you and your best friend meet? Tell the story of what happened.
10) Suppose you were a person from another culture visiting a big American supermarket for the first time. Write a journal entry describing the experience.	11) Think of an amusing incident involving an animal. Write an anecdote about the incident. Include all significant details in chronological order.	12) What is your definition of a hero? Tell the story of someone whom you think is a hero and tell why you think as you do.
13) When have you had a conflict with another student? What happened? Write a narrative in which you explain the cause of the problem and how it was resolved.	14) Think of a time when you "embraced the unknown." Write an essay about the action you feared to take and what motivated you to take it.	15) Aphorisms are statements that express a principle or truth: <i>If you want to have a friend, you have to be a friend. There's no free lunch. You reap what you sow.</i> Choose an aphorism and tell the story of a time in your life when that aphorism proved true. The aphorism should be the title of your story
16) Describe a time when you felt you were unfairly stereotyped because of your age or any other characteristic.	17) What current athlete do you think has had a positive effect on society? Write a profile of the athlete, focusing on his or her achievements off the field.	18) Recall a time when a parent, grandparent, or other important adult in your life took you to a major event in sports, music or theatre. Write a narrative describing this experience.
19) What eccentric belief or hobby do you have? Write a humorous story about it. Explain how you became interested in it.	20) Write a journal entry about the last important test you took. Describe the preparation you did for the test; your emotions before, during, and after the test; and your actual performance on the test.	21) Think of something you have wanted but have not gotten. Write a journal entry describing the item. Tell why you wanted it and how it felt or feels not to have it.
22) It is said that what kids want most from their parents is time and attention. Write a narrative about a specific, special ytime you have shared with your parents. Include your feelings about this time.	23) Think about a time when you first felt like you were really growing up. Tell about that time, including both what happened and how you felt. Make the reader feel what you felt by using strong description and figurative language.	24) What safety lessons did you receive when you were younger? Write a few paragraphs describing a memorable one and how it affected you.